(b) whether it is also a fact that the Post Master General has been apprised of this problem; and

(c) if. so, what steps are being taken by the Government to issue clear and unambiguous instructions to all post offices that money orders of any amount should not be refused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, such instance has been brought to the notice of the Postmaster General, Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(c) All post offices are bound to issue money orders up to the maximum value of Rs. 2,000. Clear instructions to this effect already exist. Fraction of a rupee is, however, not allowed in money order.

Facilities *to* Public Telephone and Booth Owners

1875. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Public Telephone Booths operating in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from public telephone and booth owners regarding more facilities; and

(c) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 2/73 lakhs public telephones, including Panchayat phones, as on 30-6-93.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations mainly for enhancement of the commission, provision of incoming call facility, service charges etc. have been received. The incoming call facility has already been ordered to be restored in all public call offices (Both Local and STD) and commission revised as under as per the revised policy on STD PCOs:

Upto 10,000 calls — 20P/Callunit

V. 10,000 to 20,000 calls — 15P/Call unit.

Beyond 20,000 calls — 10P/ Call unit.

मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूची

1876 श्री राधा किशन मालवीय : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 30 जून 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश में नए कनेक्शनों के लिए कुल कितने व्यक्तियों के नाम प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज है और

(ख) प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज सभी व्यक्तियों को कब तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिए जाने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में 30-6-1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार नए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा रत व्यक्तियों की कुल संख्या 91,636 है ।

(ख) आठवीं योजना के उद्देश्यों बड़ी टेलीफोन प्रणालियों में प्रतीक्षा अवधि को घटा कर दो वर्ष करना तथा ग्रामीण जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में आठवीं योजना अवधि (1992-97) के अंत तक व्यावहारिक रूप से मांग होने पर टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान करना शामिल है । तदनुसार इन उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए एक्सचेंजों का विस्तार किया जा रहा है ।

Procedure followed in appointing the C.M.D. of MTNL

1877. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the norms and procedures followed by Government in the appointment of the present incumbent and his predecessor Chairman and Managing Director of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).